

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Director Robert Redfield
Centers for Disease Control
395 E St SW,
Washington, DC 20024

December 9, 2020

Dear Director Redfield,

It is estimated that 19 million Americans are poised to face evictions at the end of this month when the CDC eviction moratorium expires.¹ We request that the CDC extend this residential moratorium for public health purposes as the number of COVID-19 cases in the United States continues to surge. Allowing the eviction of tens of millions of Americans from their homes in January, after you warned that this winter may become the “most difficult time” in U.S. public health history, is unconscionable.²

In the September 4th, 2020, CDC Agency Order under Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act you stated that, “public health risks may increase seasonally. Each year, as winter approaches and the temperature drops, many homeless move into shelters to escape the cold and the occupancy of shelters increases.”³ The statistic used to justify this temporary halt in residential evictions was 5,500,000 identified cases and 174,000 death in the United States as of August 24th, 2020 – during the second warmest month of 2020.⁴ As of December 3rd, 2020, only 28 days until the current moratorium expires, there are 13,900,000 identified cases and 273,518 reported deaths from COVID-19 in the United States.⁵ January is on average the coldest month of the year and will likely see the greatest surge in COVID-19 cases.

¹Threet, D., Aurand, A., Pish, M., Allen, K., & Carroll, S. (2020). *Costs of Covid-19 Evictions*. The University of Arizona James E. Rogeres College of Law Innovation for Justice. <https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/costs-of-covid19-evictions.pdf>

² Weixel, N. (2020, December 2). CDC director: Winter Could be “most difficult time in public health history of this nation.” *The Hill*. <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/528385-cdc-director-winter-could-be-most-difficult-time-in-public-health-history>

³ Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention. (2020). Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of Covid-19 (Footnote 5). *Federal Register*, 55292–55297. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/09/04/2020-19654/temporary-halt-in-residential-evictions-to-prevent-the-further-spread-of-covid-19#footnote-5-p55293>

⁴ Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention. (2020). Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of Covid-19 (Footnote 5). *Federal Register*, 55292–55297. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/09/04/2020-19654/temporary-halt-in-residential-evictions-to-prevent-the-further-spread-of-covid-19#footnote-5-p55293>

⁵ The New York Times. (2020, December 3). Coronavirus in the U.S.: Latest Map and Case Count. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>

We saw an increased level of evictions in between the expiration of the CARES Act eviction moratorium on July 25th and the implementation of the CDC moratorium on September 4th.⁶ Allowing for another gap in between moratoriums – during the coldest month of the year – could have a catastrophic impact on public health and economic recovery in the United States.

We implore you to extend the temporary halt on residential evictions under Section 361 and thank you for your attention to this matter. Please provide a response to this inquiry by Friday December 11th, 2020.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Jesús García
Member of Congress



Danny Davis
Member of Congress

⁶ Hepburn, P., & Louis, R. (2020). *Preliminary Analysis: Shifts in Eviction Filings from the CARES Act to the CDC Order*. Eviction Lab. <https://evictionlab.org/shifts-in-eviction-filings-from-cares-act-to-cdc-order/>